

A New Opisthobranch Mollusk from La Jolla, California

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(Plate 18; 2 Text figures)

THE FOUR SPECIES of the genus *Ancula* Lovén, 1846 are found in widely separated parts of the world. As far as we can determine from the literature, none occur sympatrically. Recently we have become aware of a new member of this genus occurring within the range of *Ancula pacifica* MacFarland, 1905 and in the same habitat.

We would like to express our appreciation to Miss Carol Bumgardner and Gillian Shane who called our attention to this new nudibranch and collected several of the specimens, and to Mrs. Rosemarie Fiebig for literature translations.

Ancula lentiginosa FARMER, spec. nov.

Type: — The type specimen was collected by the authors (WMF 294 a) at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, California (32° 52' N, 117° 15' W) in June 1963. The holotype is deposited at the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California Academy of Sciences Invertebrate Type Series IZ No. 13. It consists of a whole specimen. Paratypes are also deposited there, consisting of five preserved specimens, one with dissected radula. These will bear the California Academy of Sciences Invertebrate Type Series Nos. 14 to 18, inclusive. All specimens will be associated with the Frank Mace MacFarland Memorial Collection of Opisthobranchs in the Academy's Invertebrate Zoology Collection.

Description: — The body is slightly compressed, smooth and limaciform. It is highest just anterior to the branchiae, tapering behind to the tip of the long pointed tail, in front sloping less rapidly to the high blunt, rounded head. There are three nonretractile, tripinnate branchiae. A single pair of extra-branchial processes is present; each process is located lateral and posterior to the branchiae, and is long, slender, blunt, and flaccid. The rhinophores

are large, perfoliate, with seven leaves, without sheaths and nonretractile. At the base of each rhinophore is a pair of slender processes, half as long as the rhinophore, which extend obliquely forward and outward. The oral tentacles are slender, short, and blunt.

The ground color is translucent tan to off white. There are irregular specks of dark reddish-brown pigment on the head, tail and sides of the body. In one paratype (WMF 294 b) (Plate 18, figure 1) this coloration forms a solid freckled pattern, and in another (Plate 18, Figure 2), and also in the holotype (Text figure 1) it is separated by wide clear areas. Rhinophores and associated processes, branchiae, and extra-branchial processes with varying amounts of dark reddish-brown pigment, are all tipped with white. Oral tentacles are off white.

The radular formula is 1 · 1 · 0 · 1 · 1 x 36 with the ribbon increasing in size from front to back. The posterior teeth are twice the size of the anterior ones; no rachis present. The inner margin of the first tooth is at a slight angle to the median line, thickened and bearing 13 sharp recurved denticles (Text figure 2 a) terminating above in a strong hook. The outer pleural teeth (Text figure 2 b) are triangular, thin below and thicker above, terminating in a strong apical hook. The lip plate is provided with many small hooks on its surface.

We were unable to determine the number of rows of small hooks on the glans penis.

The largest individual, measured while crawling actively, was 21 mm long, 6.5 mm high, and 4 mm broad. Other live individuals were 19 x 6 x 4, 17 x 7 x 5, and 17 x 7 x 4 mm respectively.

A nudibranch collected in May deposited an egg mass on an aquarium wall. The ribbon was white, 1 mm high and about 25 mm long in a single irregularly shaped counter-clockwise whorl 10 mm in diameter.

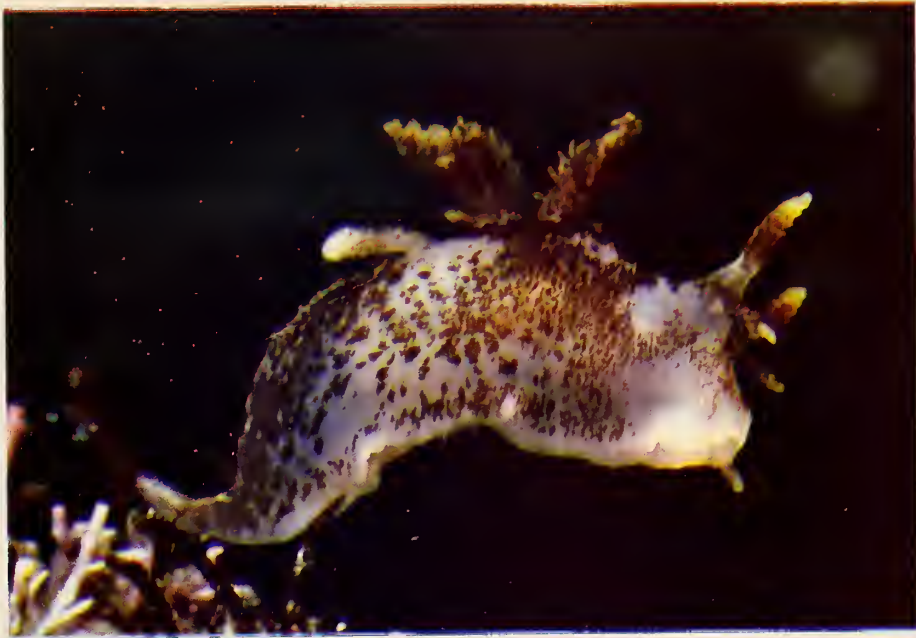


Figure 1: Solid freckled pattern of paratype.
Ancula lentiginosa FARMER, spec. nov.



Figure 2: Faint freckled pattern of paratype.
Ancula lentiginosa FARMER, spec. nov.

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